

Cataract House Niagara Falls 4 Oct^r

My dear Gray. - Your kind & elaborate letter has filled me with remorse at the thought that a man whose time is so valuable sh^d have given so much of it to so little purpose - but I think you will appreciate the reasons for my decision - My wife is not up to much travelling & is easily upset by fatigue - at the same time we have been so little together this year that I don't like to shorten the period that we can spend together enjoying a quiet time in the Country - I therefore decide to diverge very little from the shortest line to Boston & make our halting place in the Berkshire hills - Mrs Gray speaks well of Lenox but on the whole we are more disposed for Lebanon Springs of which we have heard a good account

from some nice Americans we have met here - That place is very near Lenox but in New York State. I send a telegram to day to enquire whether the hotels there (Columbia Hall) is kept open for another week & unless the weather be very unfavorable we propose to remain there till this day week when we shall make our way direct to Boston - I know that this involves giving up White Mts - Catskill hypsides & the Appalachian Club - but after all it is well to leave some plumes in the pudding in view of the chance of crossing the Atlantic rully again.

That must be if at all earlier in the year - when Alleghanies in June & White Mts in July wd form a tempting second course -
Pray thank Prof. Peckering for his kind invitation to join the Appalachian Club of which I am an ^{unworthy} Honorary member

I shall send a postcard or telegram if the answer from Lebanon Springs is satisfactory - or indeed in any case - if affirmative our address will be
Columbia Hall Lebanon Springs N.Y.
We have had three wet days this week yesterday the sun came out but the air very damp - quite saturated to day fine.

Affectionate greetings from us both
Mrs Gray

Ever yours

John Ball